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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 536

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...wall America off and America would not be affected by the world grain market, fine. But here's how it would be affected. America puts 70 percent of the feed grain out there on the market, the world market. America puts 70 percent of the grain on the world market out there, so America cannot separate itself from the world market because without that the surpluses are even greater in this country with nothing to do with them. You could build houses out of corn, maybe that's what they ought to do, if, Senator Aguilar, we don't have any bad wolves who come along and blow them down just for the fun of it. We need to seriously consider sending this bill back to the Revenue Committee for some work, and I would even work with them and give them my ideas of what we can do, and we could use a starting point...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further debate on the motion to reconsider? Senator Wickersham, followed by Senators Redfield, Connealy, Wehrbein, Raikes, and Chambers. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, I rise in support of the motion to reconsider. You may think that I should be discouraged in suggesting to you that, again, that we should refer this bill...rerefer this bill to the Revenue Committee so that we can further consider it, but I'm...I'm not discouraged. I would agree with Senator Chambers' characterization that I think the debate and the conversation this afternoon has been substantive. At least I have found it informative and, at times, a little bit worrisome as I have begun to understand more fully the program that we're discussing. One of the other things that I think, if this bill is rereferred to Revenue, that we might consider, is some mechanism to make sure that the consumers of gasohol get the benefit of the federal subsidy. I can't quite figure out why the federal government itself has not taken on that task. After all, if they're going to offer a subsidy that amounts to about 5.4 cents per gallon of gasohol at the pump, it looks to me like they would have some interest in assuring themselves that, in fact, that cost savings is passed on to consumers. Now, I...that may not be possible for the state as a state to do, I'm not sure whether we could influence